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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Penn. Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
Phone: (202) 727-2980  
Fax: (202) 727-6561  
<http://dc.gov>

## Message from the Mayor

With the third anniversary of September 11 come and gone, it's an important time for all of us in the nation's capital to be vigilant and continue to prepare for emergencies.

On September 9, I joined elected officials and community leaders to announce that September is National Preparedness Month. The Department of Homeland Security, the America Prepared Campaign, the American Red Cross, the National Association of Broadcasters and the US Department of Education have joined a coalition of 50 national organizations to engage Americans in emergency preparedness, and all 56 state and territorial governors have pledged to mark National Preparedness Month with local events.

At the District's local preparedness event, held at the Sibley Plaza Senior Center on North Capitol Street in Northwest, I distributed emergency *go kits* to Sibley Plaza residents. These valuable kits can help seniors and other residents prepare for any kind of emergency.

Since September 11, 2001, our city has made tremendous strides in educating citizens about how to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters of all types. Even so, preparing our residents is a work in progress. As I often say, government can't do it alone. Our residents need to join us in keeping Washington, DC, open and safe. We must all take responsibility for our own personal preparedness.

Residents can prepare by making sure they have:

- An emergency plan for their family
- Extra emergency food, water and other essentials on hand
- Knowledge of emergency protective measures

Residents may also enroll in the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training offered by the District's Serve DC.

One question I hear over and over from District residents is "How will I know when something has happened?" Up until now, our response has been, "Tune in to your local radio or television station. Information will be made available through the Emergency Alert System."

In July, I announced that we now have four different ways to notify citizens about emergencies. Alert DC is our four-part emergency notification system. It includes text alert, voice alert, the Emergency Information Center website and an enhanced Emergency Alert System. I encourage residents to register to receive alerts from the Alert DC citizen emergency notification program. To do so, visit [www.alert.dc.gov](http://www.alert.dc.gov) and follow the instructions. Also, see our new ads on city buses. And for more information about volunteering in the District and about CERT, visit Serve DC's website, [www.serve.dc.gov](http://www.serve.dc.gov).



# Congressional Black Caucus Meets in DC

The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) held its 34th Annual Legislative Conference in the District of Columbia September 8 – 11. Black Caucus week included issue forums, receptions and symposiums that reflected on the achievements of the African-American community as well as the strategies to address the challenges that the community continues to face.

Currently, there are 38 members of the CBC—all in the House of Representatives—14 women and 24 men. Members of the Congressional Black Caucus represent a variety of districts and constituents from coast to coast—urban and rural, northern and southern. CBC members past and present have been advocates nationally and internationally and have played a significant role as local and regional activists as well.

The mission and purpose of the CBC was summarized by Congressman Elijah E. Cummings, chair of the CBC, who said, "We choose to stand up and speak out when others choose to sit down and remain silent. We are the voice for the voiceless."

Since I have been Mayor of the District of Columbia, I have had the distinguished opportunity to welcome and greet the Congressional Black Caucus and its participants on behalf of our city. On September 8, I shared the dais with a number of great men and women who every year recommit themselves to the challenges of uplifting their communities.

The theme of this year's conference, *Defining the Moment and the Movement*, could not have been more appropriate. When we think about the 40th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the 50th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education* celebrated this year, we must keep in mind that these were moments in our history that could not have been achieved without the movements of those concerned with changing the status quo.

We have our own moment right now in the District of Columbia where we have no voting representation in Congress. As I told the CBC at the opening ceremony last week, our movement to achieve full representation must continue. However, it will take strong leadership and the collaborative effort of everyone in our city and this country to make this happen.

## Community Profile

### Marshall J. Bailly II

Marshall J. Bailly II, Ward 3 resident, has decided to change the world. He is the president and founder of an international nonprofit dedicated to bringing empowerment to men, women, and children across the globe. The organization, X-CORE (Cooperation, Organization, Revitalization, and Education), has helped create a mobile hospital in the Philippines, the first drug rehabilitation program in Nigeria, and has organized a clothing drive for the Osire Refugee Camp in Namibia.

Marshall's vision began in sixth grade. He knew he wanted to see the world and make it a better place with the help of friends and family. Now, he directs more than a dozen volunteer staff members in his organization, whose purpose is to transform lives for the better. Next year, Marshall plans to expand X-CORE to seven different countries. To learn more about X-CORE, visit [www.x-core.us](http://www.x-core.us).

"X-CORE desires to give people the opportunity to choose who they want to become and truly have some control over their destiny," Marshall said.

While a student at American University, Marshall led more than 750 students to complete 1,500 hours of community service through the Freshman Service Experience. Marshall is slated to be the opening speaker at this year's Freshman Service Experience.

His honors include the Presidential Student Service Scholarship and the Cassell Service Award. Marshall is currently a candidate in the Master of Public Administration program at American University.

Marshall is the June youth winner of the Mayor's Community Service Award, sponsored by Serve DC. If you would like to nominate a youth or adult for the monthly award, visit [www.serve.dc.gov](http://www.serve.dc.gov) for nomination information or call (202) 727-9461.



## September is National Food Safety Month in the District

On September 8, I joined our city's Department of Health to launch a very important outreach campaign to promote food safety month throughout the District of Columbia. The campaign, Healthy Food, Healthy People, teaches residents to reduce the risk of food-borne illnesses by following some key health recommendations.

It's important that we emphasize personal responsibility and food safety principles, particularly hand washing, on the part of anyone who processes, prepares, touches or even eats food. Businesses can get involved by conducting food safety training classes for all employees.

Although the exact incidence of food-borne illnesses in the United States is unknown, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that as many as 9,000 deaths and between 6.5 million and 33 million illnesses each year are directly linked to food-borne pathogens. At the same time, food safety experts report that most food-related illness can be reduced.

This campaign will raise public awareness about how residents can keep food safe from harmful bacteria:

- **Clean**—Wash hands, utensils and surfaces with hot soapy water before and after food preparation, and especially after preparing meat, poultry, eggs or seafood, to protect adequately against bacteria.
- **Separate**—Keep raw meat, poultry, eggs, seafood and their juices away from ready-to-eat foods; never place cooked food on an unwashed plate that previously held raw meat, poultry, eggs or seafood.
- **Cook**—Cook food to the proper internal temperature (this varies for different cuts and types of meat and poultry) and check for doneness with a food thermometer. Cook eggs until both the yolk and white are firm.
- **Chill**—Refrigerate or freeze perishables, prepared food and leftovers within two hours and make sure the refrigerator is set at no higher than 41°F and that the freezer unit is set at 0°F.

For more information about this campaign or a list of upcoming events, please call (202) 535-2180 or visit the DC Department of Health website, [www.dchealth.dc.gov](http://www.dchealth.dc.gov).

## Capitol Manor Cooperative Groundbreaking

On September 8, I joined residents of Capitol Manor Cooperative in Northwest to break ground on major, long overdue renovations for the 102-unit cooperative. These renovations will be part of a unique partnership that is testament to what we can accomplish as a city when we truly work together.

In October 2001, the residents of Capitol Manor formed a tenants association and assembled a strong development team, including The Jair Lynch Companies as lead developer and the Harrison Institute for legal services. The Unitarian Universalist Affordable Housing Corporation (UUAHC) provided the very first financing to the tenants association in the form of a \$50,000 earnest money deposit.

In December 2002, the tenants association was awarded \$2 million in financing from the District of Columbia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The funding was not going to be available by the purchase deadline, however, so, National Cooperative Bank Development Corporation (NCBDC) stepped in to provide a \$3.5 million acquisition loan. Less than one month later, the residents successfully purchased the property.

In July 2004, residents closed on \$8.1 million in construction financing from National Cooperative Bank (NCB) and NCBDC. The proceeds will be used to replace mechanical systems, eliminate building code violations, install a new sprinkler system, and upgrade the electrical systems, kitchens and bathrooms in each unit. The work is expected to take 12 to 18 months to complete.

Capitol Manor Cooperative saved 102 units of affordable housing in the District; 72 of the previous renters are participating in the cooperative conversion and will now have the opportunity to own their homes.

As many of us know, the cornerstone of a great society is not how it cares for the strong and prosperous, but how it cares for those in need. Capitol Manor is an amazing success story. It's a story of self-determination, cooperation, and partnerships. The residents of Capitol Manor, the District government and the private sector joined hands to preserve 102 units of affordable housing.

I've spent the last four years putting together the fundamentals of good government. In terms of real estate, that's meant establishing the programs to create and sustain economic development, and targeting the programs to the neighborhoods that need it.



# Mayor Creates Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs

Last week, I signed an important order establishing the Mayor's Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Affairs in the District of Columbia. We arrived at this day because a variety of forces within our city came together towards a common goal. Councilmember Jim Graham first submitted legislation in 2001 establishing this Office as a permanent office within the Executive Office of the Mayor.

On September 8, I signed the order and announced that leading the office will be Wanda R. Alston, who for the past two years has served as Special Assistant to the Mayor on LGBT affairs.

We joined cities like Boston, New York, Chicago and Los Angeles, which all have offices or senior officials designated to address LGBT health. We're raising the stakes here in the nation's capital, establishing a cabinet level office to address the important concerns of lesbian and gay citizens. I'm proud to be establishing this office with Wanda Alston leading it.

The mission and objectives of the Office are to:

- Serve as liaison among the Mayor, government agencies, DC Council, and the LGBT community
- Identify areas of need for the LGBT community
- Advise the Mayor on policy issues affecting the LGBT community and the District government
- Collect and disseminate research on the impact of public policies and legislation affecting the LGBT community and make recommendations to the Mayor regarding these policy and legislative issues

The Office of LGBT Affairs will work in collaboration with an advisory committee appointed by the Mayor to identify and address community issues, collect and disseminate research on the impact of public policies and legislation affecting the LGBT community, and recommend to the Mayor the development and implementation of public policy around LGBT issues.

Again, the establishment of this office was a team effort and a great example of what we can accomplish through partnerships.

## District Activities



Mayor Williams gives the Ambassador of Kenya, Leonard Ngai, a gift during a courtesy visit Tuesday in the John A. Wilson Building.



Mayor Williams voted on September 14 during the District's primary election. Later in the day, he visited several voting precincts in various wards of the city.



The 7th Annual National Press Club 5K Run/Walk was held Saturday morning, September 11.



## Community News

- [Court Intervention for DC Department of Corrections Ends](#)
- [Mayor Expresses Condolences on Behalf of the City to the Suydan Family](#)
- [2004 – 2005 Winter Plan to Assist the Homeless Released](#)

[View All News Releases](#)

## Upcoming Events

9/18	<b>Giant Food Bike DC</b> All Day 21st and E Streets, NW Contact: (202) 628-2500
9/18	<b>Hillcrest Community Civic Association's 15th Anniversary</b> 1 – 5 pm \$35/person Washington Navy Yard Conference Center Building 101, Washington Navy Yard Contact: Kathy Chamberlain, <a href="mailto:kathychamberlain@starpower.net">kathychamberlain@starpower.net</a>
9/22	<b>Tax Resolution Day</b> 12 – 8 pm 941 N. Capitol Street, NE Interested taxpayers must call (202) 727-4TAX to schedule an appointment Contact: Lucy B. Murray, <a href="mailto:lucy.murray@dc.gov">lucy.murray@dc.gov</a> , (202) 442-6855
10/1	<b>Dance DC Festival</b> All Day At venues around the city More information and detailed schedule available at <a href="http://www.dcartarts.dc.gov/">www.dcartarts.dc.gov/</a> Contact: DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities (DCCA), (202) 724-5613
10/10	<b>Fiesta DC 2004 – Hispanic Heritage Festival</b> 10 am Cardozo High School 1300 Clifton Street, NW
10/16	<b>Race for Mental Health</b> 9 am (participants should arrive between 8 am and 8:45 am to get their race packets) Rock Creek Park

